

*Application No. 09/829,721
Amendment Dated June 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 20, 2006*

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) A text entry dialog box system for use with a display device, data input means including pointing means, and processor means for executing an application program, and that displays on a screen of said display device a dialog box into which an associated user enters data during execution of said application program, said text entry dialog box system comprising:

a text entry space in a dialog box displayed on said screen of the display device for free-form entry of text items into the system by the associated user;

a memory for storing previously entered text items which were previously entered into the text entry space by the associated user;

means for selectively displaying a selection button on the screen of the display device in association with the dialog box for selection by the pointing means, the selection button being displayed solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item; and

means for displaying a list of the previously entered text items stored in the memory responsive to selection of the selection button by the associated user.

3. (Original) The text entry dialog box system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a parser for parsing the text items as parsed text items prior to storage in the memory; and

means for selectively storing the parsed text items in said memory based on the parsed text item containing at least one character.

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4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The text entry dialog box system according to claim 2, wherein:

the selection button is a drop-down arrow button on the screen of the display device displayed in association with the dialog box; and

the list of previously entered text items is a drop-down list on the screen of the display device displayed in association with the dialog box.

7. (Original) The text entry dialog box system according to claim 3, further including:

means for initializing the memory as empty each time the associated window is started.

8. (Previously presented) A computer implemented method for facilitating input of text by an associated user using a dialog box on a screen of a display device that is connected to said computer, the method comprising:

(i) initializing a memory as empty;

(ii) displaying a text entry section of a dialog box on the screen of the display device;

(iii) counting entries stored previously in the memory;

(iv) displaying a drop-down list selection button on the screen of the display device only if the counting produces a value greater than zero;

(v) receiving a typed text entry from the associated user via the text entry section of the dialog box;

(vi) updating the memory by adding a new entry corresponding to the typed text entry; and

(vii) repeating the displaying (ii), counting (iii), and displaying (iv) at least once.

9-10. (Canceled)

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11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further including:

performing a list selection routine responsive to user selection of the drop-down list selection button.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein: the counting (iii) includes counting previously accepted typed text entries which contain at least one character.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the performing of the list selection routine includes:

displaying a list of the memory entries; and

accepting user selection of an entry from the displayed list of the memory entries.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of displaying the drop-down list selection button includes:

displaying a drop-down arrow button on the screen of the display device in association with the dialog box.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further including:

parsing the received text entry, the parsed text entry being stored in the memory by the updating.

17-20. (Canceled)

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21. (Previously presented) A graphical user interface text input dialog including:

a free-form text entry portion displayed on an associated display device for receiving a free-form text entry from an associated user;

a memory storing free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into the free-form text entry portion;

a drop-down list selection button displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry; and

a drop-down selection list portion displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion responsive to activation by the associated user of the drop-down list selection button, the drop-down selection list portion listing the previously entered free-form text entries stored in the memory for selection by the associated user.

22. (Previously presented) The graphical user interface text input dialog as set forth in claim 21, wherein the drop-down list selection button includes:

a down-arrow displayed adjacent the free-form text entry portion.